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My sincere apologies for the lateness of this promised newsletter. Naturally there is the usual list of excuses, but in all truth since

Christmas we have been under some pressure to complete flora surveys across a couple of recent annexes to the Chambigne Nature Reserve, with all accompanying paperwork. Happily this is now in the tidying up stage so our own LfW program can again take priority. So firstly to all our members a slightly belated wish for a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2011, and let's hope for the same for our wildlife, with the prosperous side of things being a bountiful supply of leaves, berries and insects across all our protected areas.

I'm glad to say we've been expanding nicely across the Valley. We easily achieved our set goal of ten properties assessed by Christmas, although only nine made it through to actual registration. We could have made a round dozen registrations but lacked the prerequisite signed Landholder Agreement required by Head Office before approval. Although not binding, this proof of a landholder's commitment to wildlife habitat management is the vital step that makes our program more meaningful than others, which call only for an expression of interest over the Internet.

In any case we can now give a warm welcome to the Pillar Valley corridor residents Symons, Oxlands and Coopers, and of course Peter Turland, whose properties are all now benefiting from Peter's tireless labour and exceptional assessment reports. Also to the De Bellis' and Colemans of Copmanhurst; the Mussareds of Waterview, Sue Harris of Chambigne (whose property, Boobook Hill, has become another extension to the spreading Nature Reserve), and the Beemans and Harpers of Woodford Island. Still patiently waiting for land assessments are the Lehmans of Stockyard Creek, the Ronquists of Chambigne, and at least two other property owners in the Pillar Valley area, which has become an exciting hot-spot for Land for Wildlife.

We also look forward to handing over a gate sign to the Youngs of Glen's Creek Road, Nymboida, whose wild little property has been assessed as perfect for the scheme and again awaits only that all-important signature. We also thank Dave and Lynne Hughes of Fine Flower for their interest in managing their land for the wildlife. This property will be a lovely addition to the scheme but for now has a Wildlife-in-Waiting status while the hard working family commute long distances between properties to set things up. Koalas are the main focus in that area, although numerous species of wildlife will benefit by the Hughes' more sympathetic management regime, so we hope they will continue to keep eventual registration in their sights and help us to increase our status and strength in the Clarence Valley.

We also sincerely thank Clarence Valley Council, who have recognised the benefit of Land for Wildlife and have funded a further ten registrations, to fill the breach until CEN's next round of funding in July. This has entailed some further work from the Environment Centre, with Council's three beautiful coastal reserves, Diggers Headland, Wooli and Minnie Water undergoing flora surveys so they can also become registered Land for Wildlife zones. Diggers Headland surveys (photo right) have been completed, and again needs only a signed agreement from Council for the sign to be handed over. Minnie Water reserve is small and should be a straightforward job, but Wooli will be a challenge



with its variety of habitats, from freshwater and estuarine swamps, salt water rushlands, coastal heath, and dry to wet sclerophyll tracts.

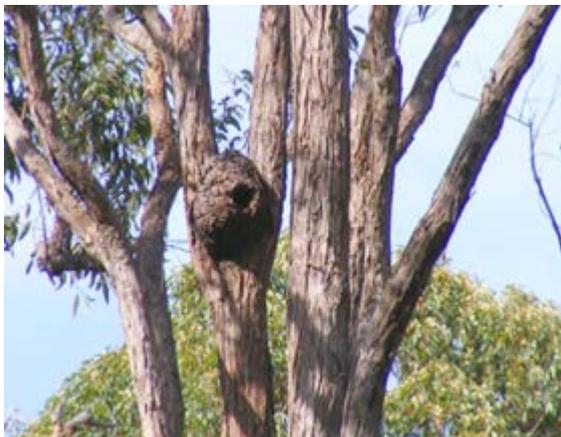
I must again give some special mention to Peter Turland, who is performing a great job of corridor creation along Firth-Heinz Road, and we sincerely congratulate and thank these residents for paying heed to Peter's great teaching and explanation skills and coming on board. Connective corridors across valuable bushland tracts like Pillar Valley is where the value of our program is fully realised. This area is of specific interest to National Parks by its coastal emu population and proximity to Yuraygir National Park, and our progress is likely to gain a mention in the next edition of the *Wildlife Australia* bulletin.



Turland property, Pillar Valley



Pillar Valley corridor plan (courtesy P Turland)



We are lucky in our line of work to find many landowners already coexisting beautifully with their wildlife. In the instance (left) the Coopers showed Peter a kookaburra nest dug out of a termite's nest in a tree. Smart birds, kookies - a perfect natural hollow without the wait!

Speaking of nests, many members are keen to acquire nest-boxes for their properties. There are a few still available through the Community Environment Network and we have already distributed two dozen across various properties. But this is not an unlimited supply, and despite our State

coordinator's exasperation at having his garage turned into a nest-box storeroom, they will quickly run out given the demand. The Environment Centre unfortunately doesn't have funds to pay for labour, but if anyone has unwanted materials such as disused exterior paint and suitable lumber that they would like to donate, we can probably arrange to have it picked up and made into boxes.

Another aspect of land management that is proving of interest is seed collection and growing native trees. We have managed to supply another of our members, Tom Davidson, who has plenty of experience in this field, with tubes and a few larger pots, and also some seeds that he is growing for us. Provided they survived the recent wet weather I'm hoping we can look forward to offering our members some tube-stock in time, in particular pink bloodwoods, a highly favoured food for flying-foxes, who definitely could use some help. Tom has also expressed a willingness to run a lesson on seed and plant growing, so we should certainly take advantage of his expertise and look at doing something about that in the future.

For now though the major event on our calendar is the forthcoming forum in North Sydney in May. CV members will be represented and we hope to participate in the case-study segment, which is always of interest as well as inspiring. It would be good to see/meet some of you there. If anyone has not yet received the information brochure, these can be obtained from our State coordinator, John Asquith, email johnesd@bigpond.com

Once again, my best wishes to you all, and sincere thanks for joining the growing band of enlightened landholders who preserve their properties for wildlife. With people like you taking care of their needs the future of many species is now more secure.

Patricia Edwards

Clarence Environment Centre, Regional Provider